

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the “Preserving History Project.” Today I’m proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

I interviewed retired Captain John Michael Hayes, a former Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1972. Mr. Hayes is an exceptional veteran who was a vital contributor during our war efforts. He flew 166 successful combat missions and gained over 24,000 flying hours in the military and in commercial flight. In Vietnam he was given a rare opportunity to wear the mantle of senior-officer-hood while being a junior officer. He taught and trained many men in the delicate art of flight while being stationed near northern Vietnam and the brunt of the warfare. Not only was Mr. Hayes an outstanding military officer, he also is an incredible asset to our community. As Veterans Affairs/Military Liaison he deals with numerous cases daily spanning from post-war medal bestowment, to veterans/widows benefits, to youth involvement with our retired servicemen. Mr. Hayes also conducts veterans interviews to keep the stories of WWII veterans and others alive. Mr. Hayes further solidified my yearning to make a difference in America by joining the armed forces. His unique take on leadership and patriotism opened my eyes to new possibilities

in America. I may now rest assured that great men are on the front lines, whether it be in the military or in public service, who are truly working for the betterment of our community and the progress of America as a whole.—Adrianne Mikes

HONORING LONG ISLAND LATINO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Long Island Latino Teachers Association.

LILTA has demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless efforts of those involved with LILTA are admirable.

I am proud to honor Long Island Latino Teachers Association for their extraordinary work in the community.

CONGRATULATING THE LINCOLN UNIVERSITY TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the men and women of the Lincoln University Track and Field team for their outstanding performance at this year’s NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The women’s team finished the season by bringing home their second national title in as many years and the Blue Tigers’ tenth overall national championship. This accomplishment is even more impressive given the strong performance by the men’s Track and Field team. Led by junior Kimour Bruce, himself a national champion in the 60-meter dash, the men’s team finished in fourth place.

Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the student-athletes of the Lincoln University Track and Field team for these remarkable achievements.

COMMENDING HIS EXCELLENCY PHIANE PHILAKONE, AMBASSADOR OF THE LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the distinguished service of His Excellency Phiane Philakone, the Ambassador of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) to the United States. Ambassador Philakone will soon be returning to Laos

and, for historical purposes, I want to publicly acknowledge the good work he has done on behalf of his country.

For more than three years, Ambassador Philakone has honorably carried out his responsibilities as Laos’ Ambassador to the United States. During his service, he has worked with the House Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, which I chair, to bring greater attention to the issue of Unexploded Ordnance in Laos.

Because of him, I was able to visit Laos on two occasions and gain a firsthand understanding of the catastrophic and lasting effects of U.S. Air Force bombing operations in Laos during the Vietnam War. To this very day, these deadly, unexploded ordnances continue to claim the lives of a people who are not and never were at war with us, and unless we rectify this now, the loss of life will go on and on, tomorrow, the next day, and every day thereafter. I thank Ambassador Philakone for his leadership on this issue.

Before Ambassador Philakone accepted his assignment to come to the U.S. in February 2007, he devoted six years as Ambassador of the Lao PDR to the Republic of the Philippines. From 1996–1999, he was the Deputy Governor of the Lao Central Bank. Prior to that position, he served as President of a joint venture commercial bank in the Lao PDR.

Ambassador Philakone has held other distinguished banking posts, including Managing Director of a state commercial bank and Director of Administration of the Lao Development Bank. Additionally, from 1976–1989, he was the Director of Research of the Bank of the Lao PDR.

In addition to his extensive practical experience, Ambassador Philakone has academic training in policy and diplomatic matters. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Law and Administration from Institut Royal de Droit et d’Administration in Laos and an advanced degree from Institut International d’Administration Publique (IIAP) in France. He is fluent in English, French, and Thai.

Ambassador Philakone and his wife, Mrs. Somchit Philakone, have three children, and I extend to them my highest regards and best wishes.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SEAN MURRAY ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Sean Murray of Defiance, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sean’s offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies is an invaluable experience that offers